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A TRIBUTE

(By Claude Lavielle)

Worse than death, is to be forgotten . . . So that this never happens to those to whom we owe so much, the association "Les Fleurs de la Memoire" (Flowers of Remembrance), came to life. It happened on December 15, 2000, in Saint Lo, a city which, after the June 6, 1944, bombing raids, was called the Capital of Ruins.

Since that day, along with our members, we have paved the way along memory's roads. These paths of memory lead to the American military cemeteries where those, swept along by the Star-Spangled banner, listening only to their courage, came to offer their life, so that we could reclaim our freedom.

At the core of Les Fleurs de la Memoire, the 720 members, put aside their differences, religious beliefs, and their origins, share the same gratitude towards the GI's who repose at Colleville-sur-Mer or Saint James.

Together, on Memorial Day or individually on any other day of the year, we come to meditate, in silence, or in prayer. Then, in an affectionate gesture, as would a godparent for their godchild, allowing the heart to speak, we place flowers at the base of the headstone.

It is not uncommon to see grandparents, at times moved to tears, accompanied by their children and grandchildren moving along the rows on the way to find "the" grave.

Once at the gravesite, their heads filled with images. . . . All listen, all meditate.

Is it the sound of the breeze? . . . Rather, isn't it the sound of the souls, the living memory of the dead speaking to our subconscious? . . . Then the terrible sounds of combat invade the mind . . . those unbearable sounds of bombs which explode . . . the whining cry of diving planes . . . the agonizing cries of the suffering. All the horrors of war assault our memories.

Finding the spirit of those who died for that we may live in a better world, kneeling in front of the headstone, placing these flowers, is this not a profound appeal for peace?

That is, I believe, what each person feels when coming to execute their pledge towards our association, "Les Fleurs de la Memoire". A humble pledge always accomplished with the infallible faith and immense fraternity with those whom we honor. It is true we have so much to say to you who sleep forever in our Normandy soil. Yes, so many things, which however must be resumed in one word: "Merci." Yes, "Thank You. Always!"

TRIBUTE TO MARY FRANCES HILL

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary Frances Hillow, a distinguished student at Visitation Academy located in Town and Country, Missouri. Mary Fran continues to excel in and outside of the classroom.

Mary Fran is an outstanding student. She shows a passionate drive to achieve academic excellence. Mary Fran is also a member of National Jr. Honor Society. The national junior honor society is one of the Nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS

serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS).

Aside from her academic endeavors, Mary Fran is also an established varsity golfer at Visitation Academy. She dedicates at least 10 hours every weekend to improving her golfing techniques. Mary Fran began playing her first 18 holes of golf in December 2007, just 10 short months later, she finished 10th in the Missouri State Golf Tournament. Mary Fran again excelled on the golf course by winning her second tournament after beating the second place player by 11 shots.

Mary Fran's athletic achievements as a golfer have landed a varsity position for Visitation Academy, something unusual for a freshman to achieve. She is one of five players on the varsity team. Her team was undefeated for the 2008 season and won the state district tournament by 56 shots.

Again, Mary Fran excelled at the State District golf tournament with a 17 hole lead and ended in a tie for first place at 3 over, 75. Her team's score was an impressive 309 at the State District tournament. This is the lowest score ever recorded in Missouri history.

Mary Fran played in the Missouri State Golf Tournament October 20–21, 2008. She was one of the few freshman players in the tournament. Her team won the tournament by 55 shots and Mary Fran was the number 2 player on her team. Individually, Mary Fran finished the tournament in 10th place out of an astonishing 120 players.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Mary Frances Hillow has my absolute highest recommendation to be honored today. I admire her demonstrated commitment to academic excellence and her accomplishments as a golfer and team player. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring such a wonderful Missouri student athlete.

HONORING THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH OF ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Holy Rosary Church, its staff, and congregation as they commemorate their 100th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and certainly cause for great celebration!

In the late nineteenth century, Italians began to settle in the City of Ansonia and within a few short decades the Italian population had risen to the hundreds. Families began to seek their own religious center and so they approached the Assumption Parish to request the use of the church and it was graciously granted. The first mass was celebrated on October 4, 1908 and as this was the first Sunday of October, it was also Rosary Sunday—and so the title was found, the Holy Rosary Church.

The Holy Rosary Church has not only been a center for religious worship, but a vehicle through which their members could give back

to the community. The St. Ann's Society for women, the St. Joseph's Society for men, and the Children of Mary Sodality for young women were all quickly founded following the establishment of the church and they were later joined by the Catholic Men's Club, the Catholic Women's Club, the Rosary Guild, and the parish's Catholic Youth Organization. The societies can be credited with bringing the annual feasts honoring patron saints to their neighbors as well as succeeding in raising the capitol funds needed not only to purchase the property on which the church resides, but also to completely renovate the church several times throughout its history.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. The members of the Holy Rosary Church have also given much to the City of Ansonia. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did its commitment to the enrichment of this community. By strengthening our bonds of faith, the Holy Rosary Church gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values.

In its 100 year history, the Holy Rosary Church has built a strong foundation and its success is due to the dedication and commitment of each and every member of its congregation. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. That is why I am so pleased to stand today to offer my sincere congratulations as they mark this very special centennial anniversary. The families, parishioners, and staff have much to be proud of as they celebrate this 100th anniversary year.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five retired United States Generals who, for the past two years, have served as members of my Military Advisory Council.

These distinguished Americans have served the Nation as leaders of our Armed Forces. They continue their service in our community. I am fortunate to have the benefit of their advice on military affairs.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have often turned to my Military Advisory Council as we considered legislation and appropriations to meet the needs of our Armed Forces. I have benefited immeasurably from their knowledge and experience.

I commend them for their commitment to our men and women in uniform and thank them for making their expertise available to me. They are: General John Wickham Jr., former Chief of Staff, United States Army, General Donald Shepperd, former Director, Air National Guard, General John Cronin, former Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine, General Bill Van Dyke, former Adjutant General, Arizona National Guard, and General Ronald Shoopman, former Commander Arizona 162nd Fighter Wing.